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NSC BRIEFING

12 November 1957

BRIEFING NOTES

- I. Departing briefly from the USSR, I would like to call attention to several important developments elsewhere in the world.
- A. Tension has again increased along the Syrian-Turkish border as a result of Turkish military maneuvers, which commenced on 11 November. However, the maneuvers appear to be on a more limited scale than originally planned. The chief of the US advisory mission in Turkey has been told that those troops not assigned to the Syrian border area will be returned to their regular bases after the maneuvers. Syrian charges of Turkish military provocations, designed primarily for internal and inter-Arab political purposes, will probably continue.
- B. In Jordan the situation has again become extremely dangerous with a new Egyptian-Syrian clandestine and propaganda effort aimed at creating chaos in that country and at removing King Hussayn, possibly through assassination. A "free Jordanian" government may already have been set up in Damascus. This group would proclaim a pro-Syrian republic in Jordan if Hussayn were eliminated. Hussayn is aware of these activities and is trying to combat them but the weeks ahead will be critical.

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- C. The stepped-up controls on Berlin sector borders imposed by the Communists following the East German currency conversion on 13 October remain in effect, and the East German regime may be considering further control measures designed to cut down flow of East marks to West, and to stem substantial escape of refugees. These controls would not affect Allied access to Berlin, but would seriously limit German freedom of movement within city.
- D. The Indonesian government is continuing to press its claim to Netherlands New Guinea--soon to be debated by UN General Assembly. President Sukarno has now added his voice to those demanding a break in trade and diplomatic relations with the Netherlands and nationalization of Dutch property in Indonesia if the government does not get what it wants. Meanwhile, the Indonesian Communists have jumped into a commanding lead in the local elections in the sultanate of Jogjakarta held on 7 November, the last of a series held in Java.
- E. After nearly three years of negotiations the Laotian government and the Communist-directed Pathet Lao have agreed on terms of a settlement which probably will be ratified by National Assembly on 16 November. Settlement has serious weaknesses, especially since Pathet apparently will enter government before fulfilling its commitments including return of two Pathet-controlled provinces to government authority. The settlement also gives the Communists an opportunity to subvert the government and the people through the establishment

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F. A statement on the Philippine elections will be furnished Thursday morning, when more returns are available. Fragmentary returns give a lead to President Garcia and to opposition vice-presidential candidate Macapagal, in what most observers believe will be a close race.

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